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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,023	08/04/2003	Drew T. De Shiell	0EKM-104599	3807
30764	7590	12/30/2004	EXAMINER	
SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP			PASSANITI, SEBASTIANO	
333 SOUTH HOPE STREET			ART UNIT	
48TH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-1448			3711	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,023

Applicant(s)

DE SHIELL ET AL.

Examiner

Sebastiano Passaniti

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 and 10-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/02/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3711

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to communication received 10/08/2004 – Election.

Claims 1-19 remain pending.

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-13) in the reply filed on 10/08/2004 is acknowledged.

Claims 14-19 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/08/2004.

Following is an action on the MERITS:

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double

Art Unit: 3711

patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1 and 8 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/316,453. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection. The claimed invention of the copending '453 application differs from the instant invention in that the claimed invention of the '453 application requires that the crown be formed of a non-metallic material. The selection of a specific material, in this case the selection of a specific composite material, as required by claims 1 and 8, would have been obvious to the skilled artisan, since it has been held to be within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art to choose a material for a particular application based upon the natural properties of the material. See In re Hopkins 145 USPQ 140.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected and claims 29-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su in view of Lo ('331). The patent to Su differs from

Art Unit: 3711

the claimed invention in that Su does not detail the thickness dimension of the crown, as required by claims 1 and 8, as well as the specific claimed material make-up of the head. Note, Su acknowledges that the diverse elements of the head, i.e., the crown, sole, face and body may comprise a cast or forged metal such as titanium, steel or an aluminum alloy. Alternatively, these club head parts may comprise a composite material (col. 5, lines 38-58). Lo shows it to be old in the art to fabricate the crown portion from a composite cover that is 1.0 and 3.5 mm thick (col. 3, lines 1-20). In view of the patent to Lo, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to modify the device in Su by dimensioning the crown portion based upon specific requirements for the weight and rigidity of the head. Note, both Su and Lo are concerned with maneuvering the location of the center of gravity of the head by incorporating a lightweight crown material within the body. The selection of a specific material, as required by claims would have been obvious to the skilled artisan, since it has been held to be within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art to choose a material for a particular application based upon the natural properties of the material. See In re Hopkins 145 USPQ 140. Further, in this instance, the prior art already guides the skilled artisan to construct a club head with metallic elements for at least the body portion and further instructs the club maker that the face may be metallic or composite in nature, while the crown should be composite to help reduce weight and alter the location of the center of gravity. As a plethora of composite materials are known in the art, the skilled artisan would have simply used a material that is appropriate for a specific club head based upon, for example, manufacturing techniques and cost.

Art Unit: 3711

Moreover, the prior art advances a teaching of using at least two materials in the construction of at least one part. Specific to the coefficient of restitution (COR) required by claims 1 and 8, it is well-recognized in the golf club art that clubs meeting USGA requirements must not exceed the legal limit for COR, but may include a COR of at least 0.80. Thus, it would have been obvious to modify Su to include a COR of at least 0.80 to meet the USGA regulations. Specific to the claimed volume of the head required by claims 1 and 8, it is well established that volume ranges in hollow metal club heads currently exceed at least 150 cc.

Claims 2, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su in view of Lo ('331) and Masanori (JP 2002-165902). Su in view of Lo has been discussed above. Su, as modified, lacks an annular lip and a recessed support. These claimed features are clearly taught by the secondary reference to Masanori, whereby the crown surface is attached to the main head body via a recessed support and annular lip configuration. See Figures 4-6 in Masanori. It is clear that this arrangement helps to provide a positive orientation of the crown with respect to the upper head portion so that a brazing operation may be effectively employed to attach the crown to the main head body. In view of the patent to Masanori, it would have been obvious to modify the device in the cited art reference to Su by fixing the crown to the main body using an annular lip and recessed support design, the motivation being to simply take advantage of another common joining technique. Note, each of Su, Lo and Masanori are concerned with providing a composite crown attached to a metallic main

Art Unit: 3711


body in order to lower the location of the center of gravity. Thus, to have combined these references for the reasons advanced above would have been obvious.

Claims 4-7 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sebastiano Passaniti whose telephone number is 571-272-4413. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (6:30-3:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 571-272-4415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sebastiano Passaniti
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

S.Passaniti/sp
December 23, 2004

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b)

Applicant: _____

Application No.: _____ Filed: _____

For: _____

_____, a _____,
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

certifies that it is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application identified above. The assignment was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
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3. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
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☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

☐ Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

The undersigned has reviewed all the documents in the chain of title of the patent application identified above and, to the best of undersigned's knowledge and belief, title is in the assignee identified above.

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date : _____

Name : _____

Title : _____

Signature: _____

PTO/SB/25 (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBTAIN A PROVISIONAL DOUBLE PATENTING
REJECTION OVER A PENDING SECOND APPLICATION**

Docket Number (Optional)

In re Application of:

Application No.:

Filed:

For:

The owner*, _____, of _____ percent interest in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent granted on pending second Application Number _____, filed on _____, of any patent on the pending second application. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and any patent granted on the second application are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 of any patent granted on the second application, as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the patent grant, in the event that any such granted patent: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to its grant.

Check either box 1 or 2 below, if appropriate.

1. ☐ For submissions on behalf of an organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.), the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the organization.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2. ☐ The undersigned is an attorney or agent of record.

Signature_____
Date_____
Typed or printed name

- ☐ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this statement. See MPEP § 324.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.